

The Columbian Players and
The Communications and Theater Arts Department
Of Saint Joseph's College
Present:

The Threepenny Opera

Music by
Kurt Weill

Book And Lyrics by
Bertolt Brecht

English Adaptation by
Marc Blitzstein

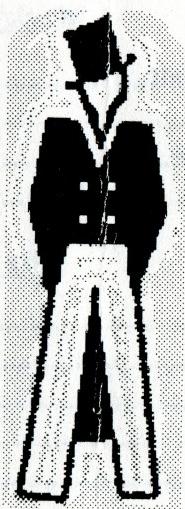
Staged by
John Rahe

Set And Costume
Design by
Louisa Monfort

Vocal And Music
Direction by
Dorothy A. Jones

Choreography by
Kristen G. Corsaro

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Hammerstein Library



The Threepenny Cast

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Street Singers..... | B.J. Sell / Karen Odum |
| J.J. Peachum..... | M.L. Nowlin |
| Charles Filch..... | David B. Fagan |
| Mrs. Peachum..... | Cindi Pishkur |
| Polly Peachum..... | Marie B. Anstett |
| MacHeath (Mack The Knife). | Mark Randall |

Mack's Gang

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ready Money Matt..... | Seth J. Johnson |
| Bob The Saw..... | Michael A. McCarthy |
| CrookFinger Jake..... | Joe Cook |
| Walt Dreary..... | Glen Johnson |

The Girls

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Jenny Diver..... | Jean Marie Plumhoff |
| Betty..... | Lisa A. Harp |
| Dolly..... | Barbara J. Horman |
| Molly..... | Dawn Hodge |
| Coaxer..... | Coleen Williams |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Lucy..... | Joanne Diaz |
| Tiger Brown..... | Joel B. Bellucci |
| Reverand Kimball..... | Charlton S. Browning |
| Smith..... | Andrew P. Poletto |
| Constables..... | Paul David Simatovich, Lee Langevin |
| Messenger..... | Scott Williams |
| Beggars, Street People..... | Martina M. Conti, Dana L. Elliott, Kelly Sigo, Kimberly K. Tarr |

Notes on the "Epic Theater" of Bertolt Brecht

The author of the play The Threepenny Opera, Bertolt Brecht, is considered to be a major theoretician and dramatist of a theatrical movement known as "Epic Theater." Brecht called his theater epic, because he thought that his plays were closer to epic poems, with their broad sweep of time and place and their mixture of narrative and dramatic techniques, than to the traditional theater of the time.

The Threepenny Opera, written in 1928, was Brecht's first major success. In this play, many of the major ideas and theories of Epic Theater are demonstrated. Brecht believed that the audience should have an active role in the theater by being forced to watch critically rather than watching passively. As a result, he introduced the concept of "Alienation" as a means of producing this effect.

Alienation, or, "Verfremdungseffect" as Brecht called it, is the process of making the stage events sufficiently strange that the audience will ask questions about them. In order to achieve this thoughtful contemplation of the stage events, Brecht called for the theatrical means, (Such as lights, scene changes, musicians, etc.), to be visible to the audience. Costumes, settings, and the breaking down of the imaginary fourth wall should all contribute to this distancing of the audience.

This is not to say that Brecht's plays are not theatrical. On the contrary, Brecht wants the audience to enjoy the theatrical experience while still being able to critically evaluate the dramatic situations.

In our production of The Threepenny Opera, we have attempted to achieve many of Brecht's concepts through setting, costumes, and a broad and burlesque style of staging. Some things may appear strange or harsh to you; that is as it should be. Brecht saw the theater as a means for social change and so he took his material from unlikely sources in order to help the audience distance itself enough from the stage action to examine it critically. Don't be caught on the surface of the play, but try to think about how the action applies to the world around you.

We hope that you will enjoy and discuss The Threepenny Opera.

John Rahe.

The play takes place in London just before the Queen's Coronation.

Act 1

Scene 1 ----- Peachum's Beggars' Emporium
Scene 2 ----- A Stable In Soho
Scene 3 ----- Peachum's Beggars' Emporium

Act 2

Scene 1 ----- The Stable
Interlude ----- A Street in Soho
Scene 2 ----- A Brothel in Soho
Scene 3 ----- Newgate Prison

Act 3

Scene 1 ----- Peachum's Beggars' Emporium
Scene 2 ----- Newgate Prison

There will be two TEN minute intermissions between acts.

The Threepenny Band

Tracy Phillips..... Clarinet
Tony Stephen..... Flute
Mark Gurtner..... Trumpet
Jerome Sommers..... Saxophone
Nath Jones..... Keyboard
B.J. Sell..... Piano

Please do not take flash pictures during
the play.

Technical Crews

Stage Manager..... Victoria L. Munk
Scene Shop
Foreman..... Joe Billetz

Set Construction..... Joe Billitz, Andy Poletto, Paul Simatovich,
Joanne Renners, Dawn Andres, Martina Conti,
Ron McGowan, Ron Hochstedler, Caroline Wu

Prop Construction
and Slides..... Tom Sullivan

Costumes..... Louisa Monfort, Laurie Ellis, Monica Broom,
Mary Ellen Cross, Heidi Rahe

Light Board
Operator..... Matt Matusiak

Follow Spot
Operators..... Mark Kroll, Ron Hochstedler

Projections..... Laronna Levillee

Running Crew..... Kim Forsey, Lisa Majewski, Joe Billetz,
Jerry Alicea

Rehearsal Pianist..... B.J. Sell

Poster and Program
Design..... David B. Fagan

**The Cast and Crew of Threepenny Opera wish to extend
our sincere thanks to the following, who have graciously
given their aid and support in order to make this show
possible:**

The Music Theory 1 Class and the Music Department.
Mr. James Earnest
CBA
Dr. James Temple
Bob Monfort
Heidi Rahe
Mr. and Mrs. Paul J. Corsaro